

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 01222 242051Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 ARAE-00 CPR-01 SY-05  
/063 W

-----242112 032451 /72-62

O 242033Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3307

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1222

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, MASS, EC, PE  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED HIGH-LEVEL MISSION TO WASHINGTON

REF: QUITO 1132

1. PRESIDENT POVEDA CONFIRMED TO ME LAST NIGHT THAT THE GOE WISHES TO SEND A MISSION COMPOSED OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE DEFENSE MINISTER AND THE CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE THREE ARMED SERVICES TO WASHINGTON. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE MISSION WOULD BE TO REAFFIRM ECUADOR'S INTEREST IN CLOSE TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS TO DISCUSS THE GOE'S CONCERNS REGARDING THE COUNTRY'S MILITARY SECURITY AND WAYS IN WHICH THE U.S. MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN THAT REGARD. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE MISSION WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE AND "IF IT WERE POSSIBLE", WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. HE SAID THAT THE GOE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE MISSION COULD BE RECEIVED SOMETIME DURING THE FIRST HALF OF MARCH INASMUCH AS ECUADOR FELT THAT ITS SECURITY PROBLEM WAS AN URGENT ONE.

2. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT I WOULD IMMEDIATELY PASS ON HIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON, THAT WHILE SUCH A MISSION OF DISTINGUISHED ECUADOREAN LEADERS WOULD ALWAYS BE CONFIDENTIAL

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WELCOME IN PRINCIPLE, THE PROBLEM REVOLVED AROUND THE AVAILABILITY OF THE PEOPLE THE MISSION WISHED TO SEE IN WASHINGTON, AND THAT THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE HAD VERY FULL SCHEDULES. I ASSURED HIM, HOWEVER, THAT WE WOULD DO OUR BEST TO BE ACCOMODATING.

3. RECOMMENDATION. I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY

EFFORT TO RECEIVE THIS MISSION AT THE LEVEL OF THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE AND IN THE TIME PERIOD REQUESTED. THE GOE HAS SHOWN REMARKABLE FORBEARANCE IN ITS HANDLING OF THE KFIR DENIAL, WHICH WAS A BLOW TO ITS PRESTIGE AND ALSO OF REAL CONCERN FROM A SECURITY STANDPOINT. BY PROPOSING THIS MISSION TO THE U.S., THE GOE IS INDICATING ITS CONCERN THAT ITS VIEW OF THE REGIONAL AND ECUADOREAN NATIONAL SECURITY SITUATION IS NOT SHARED AT HIGH LEVELS OF THE USG. THE PROPOSED MISSION ALSO INDICATES THAT THE GOE WISHES TO CONTINUE TO LOOK PRIMARILY TO THE U.S. FOR HELP WITH ITS NATIONAL SECURITY NEEDS AND TO OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTIES IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. WHICH THE KFIR DECISION CREATED. IF WE CAN BE RECEPTIVE IT SHOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD ALLEVIATING THE GOE'S CONCERNS. THE MISSION WILL SURELY COME SEEKING SOME EVIDENCE OF U.S. WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST WITH ITS DEFENSE PROBLEMS, AND I REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT WE CAN BE RESPONSIVE WITHIN REGIONAL POLICY GUIDELINES.

BLOOMFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, MILI, MASS, EC, PE  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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